



“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

MATTHEW 25:40



Pay Attention to Your Instincts

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Invite Marty into your home and the first thing he'll ask is whether or not you have any cats. Marty is allergic to cats, big time, even if they have been quarantined to another room. His eyes turn red. He sneezes. He begins to cough and wheeze like an old-time Model T. Cats are his nemesis. It is ironic that Marty has befriended a stray cat from his neighborhood. Though he never pets the kitty or allows him into his home, each day he feeds him and puts milk out for him on the deck outside his living room. And if the cat fails to come around, he worries about him.

There is something instinctive in us that moves us to care for the underdog, even if it's a cat. The Sunday Gospel this week suggests that the innate desire to care for the weakest among us is a Godly instinct. It's where we meet God, and we need to pay attention to it simply because it's how we come to a sense of God in our lives.

We all search for meaning, looking for it every day in the hidden corners of our lives and in the open daytimes of our busyness. Sometimes we find it, and sometimes we limp back home at the end of the day. More often than not it's when our day has been brushed with the color of caring for someone else that we feel good about that day. It's a Godly instinct that's not to be ignored. ●

Reflect

Has your instinct to care for the underdog ever not made sense to others?

Catholic Communities



Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel
Pat Eisel
Ray Hollstein
Mike Burkholder
Traci Maginn
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



Parish Pastor
Rev. William Pifher
419-446-9288

OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday

PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

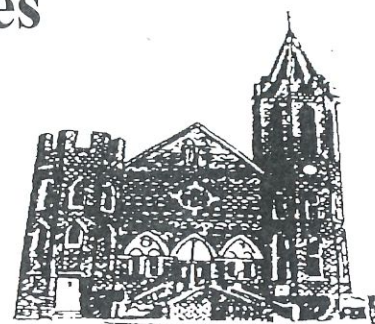
Youth Leader/CRE

Anita Van Zile

OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online)

stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy



St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

MASS SCHEDULE

1st Saturday of month 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150
email-stpeter@rtexcexpress.net

Religious Ed

Deb Herring

Parish Council President

Stephen Bernath

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions **starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.**
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA :** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon.** Please either call, email at OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

34th Week Ordinary Time

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

BFF'S (BREAKFAST, FRIENDS AND FELLOWSHIP)

BFF's will resume on January 7, 2024 – thank you all for your support and have a Blessed Advent, Christmas and New Year. – Our Lady of Mercy Altar Rosary Society

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION VIGIL (DAY OF HOLY OBLIGATION)

Thursday, December 7, 2023 - 6:00 p.m. Rosary, 6:30 p.m. Mass – Our Lady of Mercy
Friday, December 8, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. – St. Peter

SAVE THE DATE

December 17, 2023, after Mass will be the day Our Lady of Mercy decorating will be decorating the church. Anyone who would like to help please mark it on your calendar.

ST VINCENT de PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul will NOT be accepting clothing, household items, etc. donations until after January 1, 2024. Their Christmas and toy giveaway will be on Thursday, December 7 & December 14, 10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please spread the word should you know of anyone in need of help for Christmas.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM

Father Gorman (brought his dog to help celebrate Mass) was a visiting Priest to our parish. Fr. Thomas Joseph Gorman III, a Senior Status Priest of the Diocese of Toledo, died on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

PREVIOUS WEEKS BULLETINS

For your convenience, the previous weeks bulletin will be on the back table.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"Without any doubt there is a desire in all hearts for peace. But how foolish is he who seeks peace apart from God' for if God be driven out, justice is banished, and once justice fails, all hope of peace is lost." - St. Pope Pius X

Do Something Beautiful for God – The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa

Nov. 26 – We can improve our prayer and, flowing from that, our charity toward others. It can be difficult to pray when we don't know how, but we can help ourselves through the use of silence. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence. This silence takes a lot of sacrifice, but if we really want to pray, now is the time to take that step. Without the first step toward silence, we will not be able to reach our goal, which is union with God.

Nov. 27 – The future belongs to God. It is in His hands. I find it much easier to accept today, because yesterday is gone and tomorrow has not come. I have only today.

Nov. 28 – I am but an instrument. The first time I received an award, I was very surprised. I did not know whether to accept it or not. But I came to the conclusion that I should accept awards in the name of the poorest poor, as a form of homage to them. I think that basically, when awards are given to me, the existence of the poor in the world is being recognized.

Nov. 29 - Whoever is dependent on his or her money, or worries about it, it truly a poor person. If that person places his or her money at the service of others, then the person becomes rich, very rich indeed.

Nov. 30 – It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start.

Dec. 1 – The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us – to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Jesus in whatever form He may come to us.

Dec. 2 – Open your hearts to the love of God. He loves you with tenderness, and He will give you not just to give but to share. And when you are Praying, ask for courage so that when you give you can give until it hurts. This kind of giving is love in action.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Friday, December 8, 2023
Mass 9:00 a.m.

PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 13, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---Dec. 12 – Night of Healing 7 p.m. - St. Richard's – Swanton, Ohio

---Dec. 18 – Opera House – 7 p.m. - Clark Family Christmas – \$15 General Admission - \$12 Seniors - \$10 Students

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at vanzilejn@hotmail.com or call Pat Eisel at 419-737-2163. Privacy Issues for Parish Office: IMMEDIATE FAMILY – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.

December

2023

Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Basement Rental Herr Family	4	5	6 Religious Ed 6:45 pm H.S. & Elem.	7 Immaculate Conception Day of Holy Obligation Vigil Mass - OLOM 6:00 pm Rosary 6:30 pm Mass	8 Immaculate Conception Day of Holy Obligation St. Peter 9 am	9
10 Rel. Ed. Christmas Program after Mass Breakfast after program	11	12	13 Penance Service St. Peter 6:30 p.m. Rel. Ed. Grades 3-12 encouraged to attend	14	15	16
17 Christmas Novena begins Decorate church for Christmas all are welcome to help	18 Christmas Novena	19 Christmas Novena	20 Christmas Novena Rel. Ed. - No Class - Christmas Break until Jan. 3, 2024	21 Christmas Novena	22 Christmas Novena	23 Christmas Novena
24 Christmas Eve - Masses 4:30 p.m. & 10 p.m. St. Peter 7 p.m. OLOM Christmas Novena	25 Christmas Day Mass 9 a.m. OLOM Christmas Novena	26	27	28	29	30
31	January 1 Solemnity of Mary Day of Holy Obligation Mass TBD					



DIOCESE OF TOLEDO NEWS

ACA in progress – information and envelopes are on the table in the back.
Our Lady of Mercy is at 100.66%.

HELP WANTED

The Diocese has openings for employment. Check out the list at toledodiocese.org/careers

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO CALENDAR

For additional happenings in the Diocese of Toledo please visit toledodiocese.org/calendar

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS

Please pray for the Priests serving in the Diocese of Toledo, as they will gather on Monday, December 4, 2023 for the annual Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio.

Through our prayers , and intercession of Our Lady, may the Lord grant them spiritual grace, renewed fidelity, and joy in ministry.

The Diocese of Toledo Invites You to the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." - John 6:51

As part of the National Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas invites you to join him to witness what God has in store for his Church in the U.S. through the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024! The Diocese of Toledo is forming a delegation to represent our local Church in this historic event at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN, where 80,000 Catholics are expected to gather to deepen our understanding of, love for, and living out the great mystery of the Eucharist. The Diocese of Toledo has reserved a limited number of tickets for this pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress. Tickets are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Learn more and register: <https://toledodiocese.org/congress> or see flyer on bulletin board.

Advent starts December 3, 2023, and will end on December 24, 2023. Here is a bit of history/information from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org) on Advent. Next week's bulletin will have their Advent calendar.

What is Advent

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar (linked below) can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.



Saints of the Day (www.morningoffering.com)

Week of November 26 – December 2

Sunday, Nov. 26– St. John Berchmans - St. John Berchmans (1599-1621) was born in Flanders, Belgium, the eldest of five children of a shoemaker. He was a virtuous and well-liked child who would often rise early to serve at two or three Masses a day before he reached the age of seven. On Friday evenings he had a custom of making the Stations of the Cross outdoors while barefoot. When he was nine years old his mother suffered from a long and terrible illness, and John faithfully attended her bedside until she died. As a pious young person devoted to the things of God, he enrolled in a Jesuit college where he was known for being an energetic and outgoing student with great academic potential and leadership qualities. He also joined the Society of the Blessed Virgin and prayed her Office daily. He discerned a vocation to the religious life and began priestly formation as a Jesuit. His way of holiness was to perform his ordinary duties with extraordinary fidelity and perfection even in the smallest details, believing that, "If I do not become a saint when I am young, I shall never become one." He died tragically of a fever at the age of twenty-two while studying for the seminary in Rome. Many miracles were attributed to him after his death. St. John Berchmans is the patron saint of altar servers and young people. His feast day is November 26th.

Monday, Nov. 27 –Our Lady Miraculous Medal - On November 27, 1830, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Laboure in Paris, France and gave her a vision of an image, with instructions to strike the image, front and back, onto a medal. With this medal Our Lady promised that, "All those who wear it will receive great graces; these graces will be abundant for those who wear it with faith." The medal bears an image of Our Lady standing on the world, the serpent crushed under her feet, with arms extended and graces pouring forth from her hands. On the reverse is a cross surmounted by the letter 'M', and beneath it the side-by-side symbols of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, all encircled by twelve stars. The medal symbolizes Mary's perfect spiritual union with Jesus' redemptive mission, and, consequently, her intercessory role in salvation history as the mediatrix of God's graces to mankind through her Son. The medal spread widely and became a source of many graces and miracles for its wearers, earning the name "Miraculous Medal." It is traditionally worn around the neck and has become a treasured sacramental of the Catholic Church. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal's feast day is November 27th.

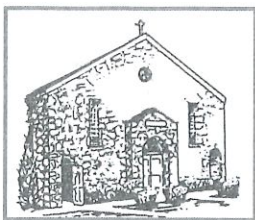
Tuesday, Nov. 28– St. Catherine Laboure - St. Catherine Labouré (1806 – 1876) was born in Burgundy, France, the ninth of seventeen children of a pious and prosperous farming family. Her mother died when she was nine years old. After her mother's funeral, Catherine kissed a statue of the Virgin Mary in her home, saying, "Now you will be my mother." Catherine was devout and simple, and did not learn to read or write. She cared for her family for many years and, drawn to the religious life, entered the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris at the age of twenty-two. In the year 1830, on the eve of the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, Catherine experienced her first apparition of the Blessed Mother. Mary entrusted to Catherine the mission of spreading devotion to her Miraculous Medal, the design of which she revealed to the saint in a vision. The Blessed Virgin appeared to Catherine two more times, and eventually the Miraculous Medal was mass-produced, widely promoted, and approved by the Church as a sacramental for public devotion. Catherine preferred anonymity and remained unknown as the visionary to whom Our Lady appeared, even to the sisters of her own convent. She continued to live a quiet life in service to the sick. After her death many miracles were ascribed to her relics. St. Catherine Labouré is one of the Church's incorruptible saints: her body is reposed in a glass casket in the chapel where she received the vision of Our Lady. Her feast day is November 28th.

Wednesday, Nov. 29– Blessed Denis of the Nativity - Blessed Denis of the Nativity (1600-1638) was born as Pierre Berthelotin in France and became a sailor at the age of twelve. He had a successful career as pilot-in-chief and cartographer in service to the Kings of France and Portugal, even being knighted for bravery. He later chose the religious life and became a Carmelite friar, taking the name Dionysius (Denis) of the Nativity. He was sent by his superiors on a diplomatic and missionary mission to the Sultan of Aceh (Sumatra). Once there, all the members of his party were seized at the instigation of the Dutch authorities. They were tortured by their Islamic captors and were told to renounce their Catholic faith and become Muslims. They refused and were martyred. St Denis was martyred last, as he desired, in order to be able to strengthen the others. He was killed by a scimitar blow that split his head in two. His last words were: "Jesus, Mary."

Thursday, Nov. 30 – St. Andrew - St. Andrew (1st c.) was the first of the twelve Apostles to follow Jesus, after being a disciple of St. John the Baptist, the Precursor of Christ. St. Andrew was a fisherman by trade and the younger brother of St. Peter. Andrew recognized Jesus as the prophesied Messiah and left his fishing trade behind to follow Jesus, convincing his brother Simon Peter to do the same. After Jesus' ascension into heaven, Andrew preached the Gospel throughout the world as commanded by Christ. He ministered and preached in Asia Minor before finally being martyred by crucifixion in the city of Patras in Achaia, Greece. He was tied to an X-shaped cross by request, not deeming himself worthy to die on the same kind of cross as his Savior. Andrew suffered for two days before dying, while continuing to preach Christ from his cross. St. Andrew's feast day is November 30th.

Friday, Dec. 1– St. Edmund Campion - St. Edmund Campion (1540–1581) was born in London, England, the son of a bookseller. He was a promising student and went on to become an esteemed and celebrated Oxford scholar, winning the high regard of Queen Elizabeth who admired his wit and pleasant disposition. Although raised Catholic, he was ordained an Anglican deacon. Unsettled by his move away from the Church, he repented and returned to the Catholic faith. While in disguise to protect his safety following his reversion, he witnessed the martyrdom of a fellow scholar and recognized his vocation. He went to Rome and became a Jesuit priest, and while assigned to minister in Moravia he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary who foretold his martyrdom. He later returned to England as an undercover priest during the severe persecution of Catholics upon the Pope's excommunication of Queen Elizabeth. His mission was to strengthen Catholics wavering under government pressure and win converts among the Protestants. St. Edmund was eventually hunted down, imprisoned in the Tower of London, and tortured. After being found guilty of treason, he said, "In condemning us, you condemn all your own ancestors, all our ancient bishops and kings, all that was once the glory of England — the island of saints, and the most devoted child of the See of Peter." After spending his last days in prayer, he was dragged with two fellow priests to be hanged, drawn, and quartered on December 1st, 1581 at 41 years of age. His feast day is December 1st.

Saturday, Dec. 2– St. Bibiana - St. Bibiana, also known as Vibiana or Viviana (d. 361), was born in Rome, the daughter of Christian parents who were martyred in the persecutions of Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate. Her father was severely beaten and sent to live in exile as a slave, but died from his wounds. Her mother was beheaded shortly after. St. Bibiana and her sister, Demetria, were stripped of their possessions and imprisoned in their family home in utter poverty and hunger. They were offered reward if only they would renounce Jesus, but the sisters, strong in faith and prayer, said they would rather die. Finding that they did not die from lack of food, the Roman governor summoned them. Demetria, after professing the faith, died at his feet. St. Bibiana was given to the guardianship of a pagan woman who tried to force her into prostitution. St. Bibiana refused and resolutely maintained her faith in Christ. For this she was beaten, tied to a pillar, and cruelly scourged. She eventually died from her tortures, and her body was discarded to be eaten by wild dogs. The animals, however, would not touch her. Her body was recovered by a priest and buried, with a chapel built over the tomb for her veneration. St. Bibiana's feast day is December 2nd.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



NOVEMBER 26, 2023

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. Nov. 26	8:30 a.m.	OLM	Chuck Wurth
	10:30 am	SP	For the People
Tues. Nov. 28	7 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Nov. 29	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Nov. 30	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Dec. 1	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Dec. 2	8:30a.m.	SP	For the People
	4:30p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun. Dec. 3	8:30a.m.	OLM	Eddie Tidwell, Chuck Wurth Living & Deceased Sarnac family
	10:30a.m	SP	Mike & Joyce Britenriker Pat & Juanita Arend

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Nov. 29 –Religious Ed –Elem.
- Dec. 3 – Basement Rental (all day)
- Dec. 7 – Immaculate Conception (day of Holy Obligation) Vigil Mass
6:00 p.m. Rosary - 6:30 p.m. Mass
- Dec. 10 – Religious Ed. Christmas program after Mass, breakfast to follow
- Dec. 13 – Penance Service – 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's
- Dec. 17 – Decorate church after Mass
- Dec. 17 – 25 – Christmas Novena
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Mass 7 p.m.
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass 9 a.m.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for November 19, 2023

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (6 envelopes) \$ 311.00
 LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 166.00

BUDGET \$ 1,747.00
 Over/(Under) (\$ 1,270.00)

OTHER COLLECTIONS

St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 20.00
Votive Candles	\$ 5.00
Maintenance	\$ 100.00
Postage Help	\$ 5.00
Youth Breakfast	\$ 55.00
Propagation of Faith	\$ 20.00
Fayette Local Ministries	\$ 25.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$ 707.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

December 3, 2023

Reader	Pat Eisel
Servers	Kennedy Kunkle Kruetz Lichtenwald
Greeters/ Gifts	Ron & Pat Eisel
Ushers	Ron & Pat Eisel
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Phil & Tami Baker Terry Kovar

Word(s) of the week (from Merriam-Webster online dictionary)

CORPORAL – of, relating to, or affecting the body

WORKS – to exert oneself physically or mentally especially sustained effort for a purpose or under compulsion or necessity

MERCY – compassionate treatment of those in distress

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” **Matthew 25:35-36**

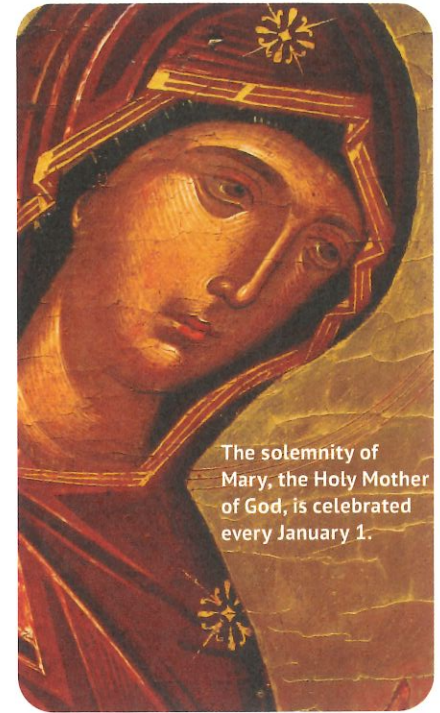
Dear Padre,

In the liturgy, how do a solemnity, a feast day, and a memorial differ?

Celebrations in the Church calendar are named according to their rank or importance. Solemnity is the highest rank. The next rank is feast, celebrating an event in the life of Christ, Mary, the apostles, martyrs, and a few other important saints.

Solemnities are usually celebrated by the whole Church, but celebrations may be made solemnities for local churches. For instance, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a solemnity in Mexico and a feast in the United States.

A memorial commemorates the day a saint died. An obligatory memorial is celebrated by every church in a diocese or country. The memorial of Redemptorist St. John Neumann, for example, is obligatory in the United States because of his historical contribution to the American Church as the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. It's also obligatory in Redemptorist churches around the world.



The solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is celebrated every January 1.

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

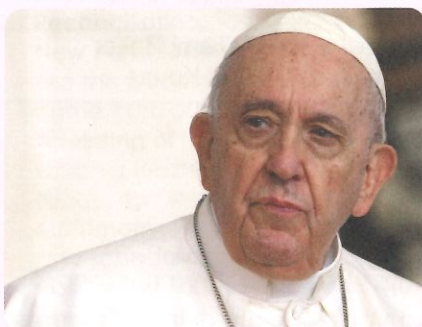
Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Optional memorials are saints' days an individual priest can celebrate Monday through Saturday if he chooses. For example, Jesuit St. Robert Bellarmine's memorial is obligatory in Jesuit churches or in churches named for him, but it's optional everywhere else.

During Ordinary Time, solemnities that fall on Sunday are celebrated, but feasts and memorials that fall on Sunday are not. During Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, some solemnities that fall on Sunday are transferred to a weekday because of the importance of these seasons. ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
November 27 <i>Weekday</i>	November 28 <i>Weekday</i>	November 29 <i>Weekday</i>	November 30 <i>St. Andrew, Apostle</i>	December 1 <i>Weekday</i>	December 2 <i>Weekday</i>	December 3 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 Lk 21:1-4	Dn 2:31-45 Lk 21:5-11	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 Lk 21:12-19	Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22	Dn 7:2-14 Lk 21:29-33	Dn 7:15-27 Lk 21:34-36	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] tells us that the good we do to one of our least brothers and sisters—whether hungry or thirsty, a stranger, in need, sick, or in prison—we do to him (see Matthew 25:37-40). In this way, the Lord gives us his “gift list” for the eternal wedding feast he will share with us in heaven.

HOMILY, ST. PETER'S BASILICA, NOVEMBER 22, 2020